

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00882 190812Z

21

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 L-01 H-02 INR-07 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 /040 W

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P 181130Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3773

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 882

STADIS //////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, PDEV, US

SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 824; (B) LOURENCO MARQUES 831;
(C) LOURENCO MARQUES 881

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL ON TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR KATIKAZA HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD SEEN FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO ONE WEEK AGO AND DURING THE CONVERSATION HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF GPRM'S DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE WEST, INCLUDING THOSE WITH THE U.S. CHISSANO HAD REPLIED THAT PRESIDENT MACHEL HAD RECEIVED THE LETTER FROM "PRESIDENT GERALD FORD", THAT MACHEL WOULD BE REPLYING TO THE LETTER AND THAT CHISSANO THOUGHT THERE WOULD SOON BE AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN LOURENCO MARQUES.

2. I THANKED AMBASSADOR KATIKAZA FOR THE INFORMATION AND IN THE COURSE OF INFORMING HIM THAT SENATOR CLARK WAS COMING HERE ON A PRIVATE VISIT, EXPLAINED THAT INTEREST IN MOZAMBIQUE WAS AT A HIGH POINT AMONG EXECUTIVE BRANCH, CONGRESSIONAL, BLACK
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AMERICAN AND OTHER CIRCLES DURING THIS INDEPENDENCE PHASE.

I WAS CONCERNED THAT SUCH INTEREST COULD NOT BE MAINTAINED AT THE SAME LEVEL FOREVER IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME RESPONSIVENESS ON THE MOZAMBICAN SIDE. I SAID THAT THE DECISION TO TRANSFER ME TO WASHINGTON ILLUSTRATED THIS POSSIBILITY. HANDING AMBASSADOR KATIKAZA A COPY OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS' STATEMENT OF JUNE 13 TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON AFRICA OF THE SFRC, I REEMPHASIZED OUR DESIRE TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL. HOWEVER, I STATED THAT WE WOULD NOT PUSH OURSELVES ON THE GPRM AND THAT WE CONSIDERED THAT THE BALL WAS IN THEIR COURT. AMBASSADOR KATIKAZA NODDED.

3. COMMENT: CHISSANO'S REPORTED REMARKS MUST BE TAKEN WITH A GRAIN OF SALT, AS MACHEL IS CLEARLY CALLING THE SHOTS. MOREOVER, UNCONFIRMED REPORTS HAVE SURFACED IN THE LAST TWO DAYS THAT CHISSANO IS BEING DROPPED AS FOREIGN MINISTER. NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO'S REMARKS TO KATIKAZA INDICATE THAT FOR THE GPRM THE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE USG IS A MATTER OF WHEN RATHER THAN OF WHETHER OR NOT. ONCE PRESIDENT MACHEL GETS AROUND TO ANSWERING THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, THE NEXT STEP WILL BE SEEKING THE AGREEMENT FOR OUR FIRST AMBASSADOR. THIS TOO WILL TAKE TIME. FULL ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
WALKER

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